

JESSE O. THOMAS, Editor.
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READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.
The Gazette will be pleased to receive all communications upon current topics, and to publish them as far as possible. In all cases the writer's name is required, (not for publication) as a guarantee of good faith.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA

WHAT THE SCARCITY OF FOOD WILL REALLY MEAN.

Great Britain's Preparations Cannot Avert Great Loss of Life—Famine Has Begun in India—The Empire—How the Official is Preparing to Help the People.

The appalling calamity which seems ready to descend upon a considerable part of the queen's Indian empire can only be realized by those who have actually seen the disastrous consequences of a wide-spread scarcity of food in the more thickly populated countries of Asia. The government has had to face a similar danger since 1877, when, in spite of all its efforts, the expenditure of £11,000,000, five and a quarter million people perished—some from actual want of food, others from the diseases that are certain to afflict a famine-stricken population. The authorities rightly deplored a panic, but it would be worse than useless to conceal the true facts of the situation. Agricultural prospects in northern India hardly bode much hope. Nothing but a general rainfall of three or four inches within the next week or so would suffice to make next year's crop a success. The famine is not a new thing, but it is a new one in its extent and now. The most sanguine officials are afraid to expect more than half the normal yield, and that, coming after a year of drought, it means a famine at famine prices over the whole region. From the present moment till the middle of next June, therefore, the people will have to live on the barest of resources. It is a situation that can only be met by the most energetic and prompt action on the part of the government, but suffering there must be as great as that of any other famine in its degree.

The most we can hope is that measures of relief will be so direct and so prompt that every rupee spent shall have its full effect in saving life and averting intolerable misery. It has been otherwise in the past. During the Orange famine of 1864-65, of which the official reports are full, the famine was not met by the government, but suffering there must be as great as that of any other famine in its degree.

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UNDER ALL CONDITIONS.

Much worse to many charming hats—ribbons, velvet, tulle, and lace. The hard to tell from the rest in which they were made.

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A MEAN MAN.

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REASON IN INSECTS.

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KILLED BY POPULARITY.

When his deathbed, Dr. Maugher declared that popularity had killed him.

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